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PRESS RELEASE

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Senate leadership introduces *GeorgiaSpeaks*



ATLANTA – State Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams (R-Lyons) and Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson (R-Savannah), surrounded by many of their fellow lawmakers, announced a new initiative they will call *GeorgiaSpeaks* – a program and Web site (www.GeorgiaSpeaks.com) that will allow Georgia citizens the opportunity to present their ideas to their state Senators for new legislation.

“We are looking to give our constituents more input into the legislative process,” Sen. Williams said during a press conference at the State Capitol today. “We are looking for ideas that will adhere to Georgia’s conservative principals – reducing the size of government and the tax burden on our citizens, increasing individual responsibility and strengthening our family values.

“We want our citizens to come to us and let us know when there is a problem that we can fix with legislation,” Sen. Williams went on to add. “Their experiences help us as we work to enact new laws to protect and defend the law-abiding citizens in Georgia.”

The *GeorgiaSpeaks* Web site, which will officially be online today, can be found at www.GeorgiaSpeaks.com. Some of the criteria the Senators will use when deciding whether to consider the potential legislation will include:

- ◆ Will it reduce the size of government?
- ◆ Will it strengthen our traditional family structure?
- ◆ Will it reduce the tax burden for our citizens?
- ◆ Will it increase personal responsibility?

“We want to see more Georgians get involved in the political process and share their ideas with us,” Sen. Williams continued. “We are here to serve them and we hope they will use *GeorgiaSpeaks* as another way to communicate with us and let us know what is on their mind, so that we can build a better Georgia. I think we can all agree that the best ideas come from the people in our communities across the state.”

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CUTLINE: Sen. Tommie Williams (R-Lyons) unveils GeorgiaSpeaks at a press conference in Atlanta. Pictured with Sen. Williams are Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon), Sen. John Wiles (R-Kennesaw), Sen. Dan Moody (R-Alpharetta), Sen. Nancy Shafer (R-Turnerville), Sen. Bill Heath (R-Bremen), Senator-elect Jack Murphy (R-Cumming), Sen. John Douglas (R-Covington), Sen. Chip Pearson (R-Woodstock), Sen. Jack Hill (R-Reidsville) and Sen. Bill Hamrick (R-Carrollton).

Sen. Tommie Williams represents the 19th Senate District which includes Jeff Davis, Long, Montgomery, Toombs, Wayne, and Wheeler counties and a portion of Liberty and Tattnall counties. He can be reached at 404.463.5220 or by email at tommie.williams@senate.ga.gov.